

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



*Clark Scott*

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

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## Woodward H. Brown 1896-1980

Robert Vane  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union lost one of their finest April 8, 1980, when Woodward Hart Brown died in Des Moines. Seldom has a finer gentleman or more dedicated ornithologist graced our membership. His efforts on behalf of birding in Iowa were manifold, and through his activities and character he was truly one of the prime movers in the success of the IOU.

Woody, as he was known among friends, was born September 22, 1896, in St. Louis where he lived his childhood and early manhood. There he married Mary Gibbons on June 22, 1927. In 1940 they moved to Des Moines where Woody was employed as auditor of the American Mutual Life Insurance Company. He retired from that company in 1961.

It's notable that as a young couple in St. Louis, the Browns joined a field trip to Forest Park led by Albert Berkowitz. When their paths crossed again in Des Moines, it was Woody's friendship with Albert that helped to inspire his strong interest in ornithology. Readers will remember that Albert Berkowitz was a former President of the IOU. Woody joined the IOU in 1947. He also joined the Des Moines Audubon Society, serving as Treasurer of that organization.

My earliest recollections of Woody are of the Browns and Berkowitzes attending the McGregor IOU meeting in May of 1949. From that time, Woody attended nearly all spring and fall meetings. Woody's approach to birding was as careful and precise as his accounting background would suggest. More importantly, he was ever ready to share his knowledge and abilities with fellow birders.

Going far beyond a casual interest, Woody took on many of the most interesting and also most demanding tasks of the IOU organization. He was Editor of the Field Notes section of **Iowa Bird Life** from December 1961 until June 1976, a prodigious task. He served the IOU as Treasurer from June 1968 to June 1972. During that period he installed an improved bookkeeping system that is still in use.

Another of his invaluable contributions to IOU was his indexing of **Iowa Bird Life** for three five year periods spanning the issues of 1951 through 1965. Woody also compiled numerous Iowa Christmas censuses for publication in **IBL**, and further enriched the magazine through various other articles and General Notes.

Woody's methodical and scientific approach to birding is most clearly demonstrated in his **An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa**. First published in the Iowa State Journal of Science (February 1971) and later printed as a pamphlet, this represents a monumental compilation of information on Iowa birds. Requiring hours of painstaking research and orderly recording, this list presents the status of all bird species that have been recorded within the state. It ranks with R. M. Anderson's **Birds of Iowa** (1907), P. M. DuMont's **A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa** (1933), and Martin L. Grant's **A Checklist of Iowa Birds** (1963).

Woody's expert knowledge was put to good use on the IOU Field Checklist committee. Finally, at the time of his death, he was working on a comprehensive series of species accounts for inclusion in a new work **The Birds of Iowa**.

Woody's birding activities and interests reached no limits at the Iowa borders. For many years he was a member of the Wilson Ornithological Society and contributor to its publication **The Wilson Bulletin**. I well remember his report "Anting By A Yellow-shafted Flicker."

He was also a contributor to **American Birds**, particularly with articles on winter population trends derived from analysis of national Christmas count data. A series of four of his articles carried titles "Winter Population Trends in Black

and Turkey Vultures," "Winter Population Trends in the Bald Eagle," "Winter Population Trends in the Marsh, Coopers, and Sharp-shinned Hawks," and "Winter Population Trends in the Red-shouldered Hawk."

When beyond the Iowa borders for pleasure, the Browns birded extensively in Florida and Texas, frequently with the Dick Mooneys of Des Moines. A trip with the Dwight Brookes, also of Des Moines, to Trinidad and Tobago, including a stay at the Asa Wright Nature Centre was another of their favorite journeys. Finally, a trip to Panama and Guatemala rounded out Woody's birding experience.

It was always a delight to be involved with the Browns in all of their activities and a particular treat to be a guest in Woody and Mary Brown's home. My own first visit there was many years ago at a dinner party before a film at the Des Moines Audubon Society. Their home was a haven of warmth, good food, friendship, and beauty reflecting the character of the owners.

It was the privilege of the author to go on several ornithological trips with Woody. One such trip was to the Platte River in Nebraska in March of 1967 to see the migration of Sandhill Cranes. With his knowledge, wit, and wonderful use of words, Woody added tremendously to the trip.

Another journey was to join the Minnesota Ornithologists Union for their mid-winter trip on the north shore of Lake Superior in February 1969. Though age 72 at the time, and despite 20 degrees below temperatures and a record snowfall in Duluth, Woody behaved in his usual manner - a jolly birding companion for the entire trip.

An allusion was made to Woody's use of words. It was not only a delight to talk with him but a delight to receive his letters; usually after writing him, his reply would come back by return mail. Often it contained an unusual word to convey an exact nuance of meaning.



Woody and Albert Berkowitz, 1968

And so a valued member, a knowledgeable birder, one of the stalwarts of the IOU has passed on. We feel fortunate that we knew him and shared wonderful times with him.

In his memory the Des Moines Audubon Society has planted a flowering tree in Greenwood Park, one of Woody's favorite birding haunts. The Iowa Ornithologists Union has named its scholarship fund in his honor.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of Des Moines, a brother Wray of Fort Worth, Texas, a daughter, Wray Brown Stevens of Knoxville, Tennessee, and two grandchildren.



## (58th Annual I.O. U. Convention, May 10, 11, 1980)

MARY LOU PETERSEN

235 McClellan Blvd.

DAVENPORT, IOWA

The fifty-eighth annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Spirit Lake, Iowa on May 10 and 11, 1980. The host organization was the Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon Society. This meeting marked the second time that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union held a joint meeting with the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. The meeting was held at Wesley Place in Spirit Lake which was an excellent facility for our meeting.

The Saturday meeting began with a welcome by Greg Anliker, NIPL Audubon Society president and also Elsie Whetsler, of the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Following IOU and TNC president, Carl Kurtz's response, Greg Anliker recognized the work of NIPL past-president, LaVonne Foote, in putting the meeting together. He then introduced the first speaker of the morning.

Doug Harr, a wildlife biologist of the Iowa Conservation Commission, also welcomed the group and presented a most interesting and informative slide-lecture entitled "Heritage of Ice", relating to the local area.

Following Mr. Harr, Carl Kurtz presented a program on areas in western Minnesota. As usual his pictures were beautiful and made one realize that Minnesota offers some exquisite areas for the vacationer.

The rest of the morning was devoted to the T. N. C. business meeting.

The afternoon program began with "Nesting Birds of Iowa" by Eldon and Dixie Kanago. The Kanagos have some very interesting pictures of nesting birds taken very close to the nest and are members of the NIPL Audubon Society.

Peter Petersen followed with "Birding in Southern California". His pictures included some of the special birds of California and some of the peculiar bird watchers of California.

There was a brief snack break followed by explanation of the field trips. Unfortunately, afternoon explorations offer more attraction than the IOU business meeting and the number of members dwindles considerably.

President Carl Kurtz opened the meeting by welcoming the members and thanking them for their attendance. He mentioned the passing of longtime member, Woodward Brown of Des Moines on April 8, 1980. President Kurtz asked Dick Mooney of Des Moines to highlight the numerable contributions made to the IOU by Woody. The IOU will miss Woody Brown very much. Scholarships given by the IOU will be Woodward Brown Memorial Scholarships.

Dick Mooney moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with as they were printed in IBL. The motion was seconded and it carried. Ruth Buckles gave the treasurer's report and the membership report. The balance on hand was very low due to increased costs in printing the IBL, the cost of our new book, and a small decrease in membership.

Leroy Pratt and Sylvan Runkel of Des Moines served as the auditing committee and reported that the books were audited on May 8th and found to be in good order. John Osness of Waterloo moved that the financial report be approved. It was seconded and it carried.

President Kurtz named Peter Petersen and Frieda Crossley to the nominations committee. He named Larry Farmer and Dick Bierman to the resolutions committee. He announced that Dr. Dinsmore of ISU will fill Woody Brown's position on the checklist committee.

The necessity of a dues increase was brought up by the president. Peter Petersen spoke on the issue, explaining that printing costs have risen a great deal since that last dues increase. The following dues structure was proposed: single membership, \$8; supporting membership, \$10; family membership, \$15; junior membership, \$4. John Osness moved that the structure be increased as recommended beginning with 1981 dues. The motion carried.

President Kurtz mentioned that Tom Kent of Iowa City suggested a spring count to be done by groups on a specific day by counties throughout the state. Peter Petersen spoke to the idea. It was suggested that Tom Kent make a plan and submit it at the fall meeting. Peter Petersen will contact Dr. Kent.

Peter Petersen suggested that clubs could take the **Birding Areas of Iowa** on consignment. The books can be obtained from the IOU librarian, Pat Layton. The president mentioned the scholarship fund and that \$260 is needed to make the first scholarship. He also mentioned that the group has an invitation for the fall meeting. Betty Jones of Des Moines has extended the invitation for the group to meet at Springbrook State Park on September 20, 1980. Peter Petersen moved to accept the invitation. The motion carried. After some discussion, Peter Petersen moved that we strongly attempt to keep the IOU meeting joint with the T. N. C. The motion carried. Ed Crocker of Storm Lake moved the meeting be recessed. The motion carried.

The banquet was held at the Wesley Place. Following the fine meal, Rich Madsen, Regional Audubon Representative, presented the permanent chapter charter to the Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon Society. LaVonne Foote and Doug Harr accepted the charter for the NIPL Audubon Society.

President Kurtz introduced the evening's speaker, Mr. Bob Dyas of Iowa State University, who spoke on the "Spirit of the Savanna". He followed the zone where the forest and grassland meet from Alberta through the United States to southern Texas. He showed individual species as well as general views of habitats. The sequence was southward in the fall from late August to November, then back north in the spring.

The business meeting was reopened following Sunday's luncheon at Wesley Place. Larry Farmer of the resolutions committee gave the following report:

Be it resolved by the 58th Annual IOU and the 2nd joint IOU and TNC meeting on May 10 and 11, 1980, that we the members thank the Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon Society for hosting the spring meeting.

Particularly, we would like to thank the officers and executive council and our editor and librarian for their efforts on behalf of our organization. Be it further resolved that our thanks be given to:

1. The Northern Iowa Prairie Lakes Audubon Society's past president, LaVonne Foote and all the volunteer help required for securing Wesley Place and arranging for the banquet and Sunday lunch, and also, special mention of the colorful and delicate flowers and table decorations.
2. To Greg Anliker for his direction during Saturday's programs.
3. For the welcome offered by the Spirit Lake Chamber of Commerce.
4. To Doug Harr, Carl Kurtz, Eldon and Dixie Kanago, Peter Petersen, and Mr. Bob Dyas for their program presentations.
5. For the knowledgeable field trip leaders on both Saturday and Sunday.
6. To Peter Petersen for displaying the books formerly offered by Fred Pierce.
7. And for anyone we may have inadvertently overlooked whose behind-the-scene efforts are so necessary for a successful meeting. Larry Farmer moved the report be accepted. The motion carried.

The nominations committee reported the slate of officers as follows: president, Carl Kurtz; vice president, Ross Silcock; secretary, Mary Lou Petersen; treasurer, Ruth Buckles; executive committee, George Crossley, Dorothy Brunner, Mike Newlon and Gene Burns. Herb Dorow moved nominations cease. The motion carried. Peter Petersen moved that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot. The motion carried. President Kurtz reminded members about the fall meeting. Peter Petersen stated that there is a need for copy for *Iowa Bird Life* and that articles are welcome. Peter Petersen moved adjournment. The motion carried. Respectfully submitted.

Peter Petersen was compiler. The species number for the day was 163 and seven additional species were seen on Saturday. Bird List -- Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Common Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Upland Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Snipe, Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowticher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Stilt Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forester's Tern, Common Tern, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin,

Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Seen on Saturday only: Little Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Eastern Meadowlark.

**Registered Attendance -- 129**

Ames - John and Elaine Bath, Jack Dodd, Bob Dyas, Rex R. Johnson, John and Coleen Nutty, Nick Osness, John C. Robinson, Ron Sarson, Marlys Young, Hank Zaletel  
Arnolds Park -- Dr. J. B. and Pearle Osher  
Bondurant -- Jack Phipps  
Boone -- Dave Newhouse  
Booneville -- Eugene and Eloise Armstrong  
Cedar Falls -- Larry Eilers  
Cedar Rapids -- Karl and Ruth Goellner  
Cherokee -- Dick and Judy Bierman, Dave and Linda Johnson  
Clarion -- Beth and Maurice Baker  
Clear Lake -- James L. Hansen  
Clinton -- Philo and Ida Mae Tucker  
Davenport -- Peter and Mary Lou Petersen  
Des Moines -- Ruth Buckles, Larry Contera, Joyce and Hugh Farquharson, Dick and Pauly Mooney, LeRoy and Louise Pratt, Mark Rouw, Sylvan J. Runkel, Sandy Skidmore  
Dubuque -- George and Frieda Crossley, John and Leta Miller  
Elkader -- Jenny Welp  
Estherville -- Belva and Dennis Henrickson, Bob Moats  
Granville -- Gwen Hedin  
Holstein -- Mildred and Clarence Lohff  
Indianola -- Rick and Beth McGeough  
Inwood -- Florence De Vaul  
Iowa City -- John and Gail Nothnagle  
Larchwood -- Doug Harr  
Laurens -- Ronald Harms, Thaine and Wendy Hopkins  
Mason City -- Genevieve L. Nelson  
Milford -- Ken and Vivian Herbster, Verena Northey  
Muscatine -- Allan C. Hahn  
Newton -- Herb and Edith Dorow

Nora Springs - Dorothy Brunner  
Okoboji - Joe Landi  
Onawa - Russell Field  
Paullina - Irwin and Mary Heusinkveld  
Pocahontas - Ray and Madeline Cummins, Wallace and Betty Jardine  
Ruthven - Barbara Nelson  
Saint Anthony - Carl Kurtz, Mrs. Hazel Kurtz  
Saint Olaf - Larry and Margaret Stone  
Spencer - Ruth Anderson, Russ and Ellen Heine, Bob and Bess Madsen, Burdell and Irene Triplett  
Spirit Lake - Jean Arthur, Ralph E. Baker, LaVonne and Dale Foote, Grace and Melvin Goff, Maxine and Marion Hix, Nina and Ed Loehr, Lee Lorch, Ella Moeller, Toni and Alice Nielsen, Arlene M. Phippin, Lorene Sawyer, Loraine and Lynn Wallace  
Storm Lake - Ed and Virginia Crocker, Phil and Ruth Thornton  
Swaledale - Mr. and Mrs. Packer Koppen  
Terril - Greg and Laurie Anliker  
Waterloo - Antoinette Camarata, Harvey and Anna Mae Kirchgatter, Lowell and Eleanor Miller, Frances and Peggy Moore, John and Lois Osness  
Westfield - Larry and Carol Farmer  
Jamestown, North Dakota - Richard Madson

## BANDING REPORT



## 1979 Bird Banding in Iowa

IRENE LAYTON  
OSKALOOSA, IOWA

Bird banding reports for 1979 seem to be down from 1978 totals. We are short 6 species and 3040 birds. Petersen led all banders with the most total birds, but Laytons led in the number of species banded. With Irene's right arm in a cast for 6 weeks, and in July and August her oldest sister was terminally ill in the hospital, in Newton, Irene spent 3 nights a week, all night, sitting with her, our bird banding suffered. Also we ran out of zero bands right at the crucial time in May when the warblers were migrating. Many had to be released unbandied. We have a new bander this year, the Paul and Mary Felsings from over by Red Rock Lake. Our welcome to the Felsings.

Seven banders made up the "ONLY ONE CLUB" for 1979, with a list of 14 species, by the following banders:

AYRES - N. Mockingbird

CONS. COMM. - Redhead, Red-shouldered Hawk

BURNS - Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

DIGGS - Pine Warbler, Belles Vireo

LAYTON - Common Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Chuck-wills-widow, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Prothonotary Warbler

MOSMAN - Northern Shrike

PETERSEN - American Coot, Hooded Warbler

To our knowledge Burns banded the 1st and only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher ever banded in Iowa, if I'm wrong, I stand to be corrected. We banded our first Horned Lark, and were very happy to get another Chuck-wills-widow.

Mrs. DeLong was the only bander to send us any returns. A purple Finch banded 4-10-75 and recaptured 3-8-79. We had a male Red-winged Blackbird banded at Goose Lake up by Jefferson 5-30-70 recaptured 6-5-79.

The banders did not send in their reports in time and I had to send out a card to about half or more, so it slows up our tabulation until the June issue. Try and do better next year.

Following is a list of the Iowa banders who reported to us, and the number of species and individual birds banded by each in 1979.

Name	Species	Total Birds
Charles & Darleen Ayres	81	1,233
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	23	78
Gene & Marilyn Burns, Jamaica	74	2,500
Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni	51	493
Fitzhugh & Hazel Diggs, Hamburg	100	2,587
Paul & Mary Felsing, Knoxville	44	400
Iowa Conservation Commission	18	7,163
Ann Johnson, Norwalk	43	781
Keith & Irene Layton, Oskaloosa	113	2,579
Dean Mosman, Ankeny	28	741
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	106	3,543
Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah	35	572
Dean Roosa, Des Moines	2	71
Marie Spears, Shenandoah	42	234
Betty Walters, Essex	18	120
Totals	1,514	23,095

A belated report from David Newhouse of the Iowa Conservation Commission added two species to the 1978 report (IBL Vol. 49 p. 44-46), Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl.

Species	No.			
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Solitary Sandpiper	.....	1
Green Heron	2	American Woodcock	.....	5
Canada Goose	409	Common Snipe	.....	1
Wood Duck	1,529	Mourning Dove	.....	26
Mallard	4,683	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	.....	38
Blue-winged Teal	509	Black-billed Cuckoo	.....	39
Northern Shoveler	2	Common Screech Owl	.....	12
Redhead	1	Great Horned Owl	.....	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	23	Long-eared Owl	.....	2
Red-tailed Hawk	65	Saw-whet Owl	.....	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Chuck-will's-widow	.....	1
Broad-winged Hawk	11	Whip-poor-will	.....	7
American Kestrel	369	Common Nighthawk	.....	3
American Coot	1	Chimney Swift	.....	4
Killdeer	4	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	.....	7
		Belted Kingfisher	.....	4

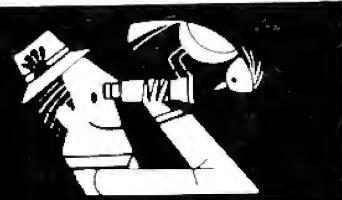
## BIRD BANDING REPORT

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Common Flicker .....	129	Philadelphia Vireo .....	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	32	Warbling .....	21
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	68	Black-and-white Warbler .....	105
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	12	Prothonotary Warbler .....	1
Hairy Woodpecker .....	45	Worm-eating Warbler .....	5
Downy Woodpecker .....	237	Golden-winged Warbler .....	7
Eastern Kingbird .....	85	Blue-winged Warbler .....	19
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher .....		Tennessee Warbler .....	190
Great Crested Flycatcher .....	52	Orange-crowned Warbler .....	118
Eastern Phoebe .....	46	Nashville Warbler .....	192
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	68	Northern Parula .....	3
Acadian Flycatcher .....	35	Yellow Warbler .....	29
Willow Flycatcher .....	67	Magnolia Warbler .....	86
Least Flycatcher .....	169	Cape May Warbler .....	2
Eastern Pewee .....	45	Black-throated Blue Warbler .....	2
Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler .....	236
Horned Lark .....	1	Black-throated Green Warbler .....	10
Tree Swallow .....	1	Blackburnian Warbler .....	7
Bank Swallow .....	403	Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	37
Rough-winged Swallow .....	14	Bay-breasted Warbler .....	35
Barn Swallow .....	76	Blackpoll Warbler .....	37
Cliff Swallow .....	915	Pine Warbler .....	1
Purple Martin .....	246	Palm Warbler .....	34
Blue Jay .....	412	Ovenbird .....	175
Black-capped Chickadee .....	434	Northern Waterthrush .....	49
Tufted Titmouse .....	35	Louisiana Waterthrush .....	10
White-breasted Nuthatch .....	63	Kentucky Warbler .....	7
Brown Creeper .....	111	Connecticut Warbler .....	6
House Wren .....	526	Mourning Warbler .....	57
Winter Wren .....	10	Common Yellowthroat .....	103
Northern Mockingbird .....	1	Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2
Gray Catbird .....	547	Hooded Warbler .....	1
Brown Thrasher .....	173	Wilson's Warbler .....	61
American Robin .....	630	Canada Warbler .....	35
Wood Thrush .....	49	American Redstart .....	75
Hermit Thrush .....	170	House Sparrow .....	14
Swainson's Thrush .....	283	Eastern Meadowlark .....	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	78	Western Meadowlark .....	3
Veery .....	34	Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	3
Eastern Bluebird .....	64	Red-winged Blackbird .....	205
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	3	Orchard Oriole .....	19
Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	48	Northern Oriole .....	168
Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	353	Rusty Blackbird .....	21
Cedar Waxwing .....	61	Common Grackle .....	93
Northern Shrike .....	1	Brown-headed Cowbird .....	81
Loggerhead Shrike .....	14	Scarlet Tanager .....	24
European Starling .....	13	Northern Cardinal .....	332
White-eyed Vireo .....	4	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	225
Bell's Vireo .....	1	Blue Grosbeak .....	3
Yellow-throated Vireo .....	17	Indigo Bunting .....	221
Solitary .....	43	Dickcissel .....	89
Red-eyed Vireo .....	209	Purple Finch .....	693

Pine Siskin .....	174	Clay-colored Sparrow .....	7
American Goldfinch .....	1,161	Field Sparrow .....	56
Rufous-sided Towhee .....	13	Harris' Sparrow .....	133
Savannah Sparrow .....	5	White-crowned Sparrow .....	26
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	72	White-throated Sparrow .....	269
Vesper Sparrow .....	11	Fox Sparrow .....	46
Lark Sparrow .....	20	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	124
Northern Junco .....	1,150	Swamp Sparrow .....	61
American Tree Sparrow .....	643	Song Sparrow .....	99
Chipping Sparrow .....	115		

## FIELD REPORTS



### SPRING 1980

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor  
211 Richards Street  
Iowa City, IA 52240

### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

March was relatively normal compared to last year with little precipitation. April was a record dry and warm month with no rainfall in most areas of the state. Dry conditions continued through mid-May but the temperatures were much cooler.

### GENERAL TRENDS

The dry conditions provided good shorebirding in some areas. Geese were more evident than usual in e. Iowa. The warm April did not seem to accelerate the migration. Warblers and thrushes moved through in an unspectacular fashion. Unlike last year, few migrants were left after May 20.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Casual species reported included Ross' Goose, White-winged Scoter, Prairie Falcon, Sandhill Crane, Yellow Rail, and Yellow-throated Warbler. A Mountain Bluebird near Mason City was substantiated by photograph. Two Mississippi Kites were documented by the same observers who have reported this species for the last two years. A male Western Tanager appeared at Forney L. Five other accidental species were reported -- two undocumented and three not on the state list. Two of the three documented reports were not convincing and the other difficult to identify and highly unlikely species. There were two unusual winter records not previously reported -- a Sandhill Crane in Fayette Co. and a Ruddy Turnstone at Keokuk.

### LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

**Common Loon:** 1-2 birds were reported from nine localities from 8 Apr. at Montezuma (DK) to 28 May at Willow S. (BWi).

**Horned Grebe:** There were eight reports from 23 Mar. at Coralville Res. (TK) to 10 May at Riverton A. (BWi,RS,BJR). Since this is a regular species, it is likely that many more were seen.

**Eared Grebe:** Record early and late dates of 22 Mar. and 1 Jun. were set at Willow S. (BWi) and a large number (12) were at Pahoja L., Lyon Co. (JV). Other

sightings were 25-31 Mar. at Cedar Rapids (TG), 10 May at Cardinal M. (DK) and 15 May at Coralville Res. (TK).

**American White Pelican:** Several thousand were at Riverton A. and Forney L. on 26 Apr. (RMy) and 250 lingered there until at least 13 May (RS,TK,TSh) and 2 were still at Willow S. on 30 May (BWi). Other reports were at Saylorville Res. on 22 Apr. (CL fide DN) and Sunken Cove on 28 Apr. (RC).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Cormorants were widespread throughout the state in small numbers in flocks of 25 to 45 birds with dates from 11 Apr. at Lizard L. (RC) to 18 May at Sweet M. (FM).

**Green Heron:** Five eggs were in the same nest as last year at Nora Springs (DAB).

**Little Blue Heron:** An immature was at Folsom L., Mills Co. on 13 May (RS, TSh,TK).

**Cattle Egret:** Only two sightings this year: 12 Apr. at Fayette (ISU) and 10 May in Mills Co. (RS).

**Snowy Egret:** 1 was seen at Riverton A. on 2 May (RS).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** There were nine reports of 2 to 14 birds from widely scattered locations.

**Least Bittern:** Only 3 were reported: Muskrat S. 10 May (TK), Forney L. 13 May (TK,RS,TSh), and Hendrickson M. 14 May (ISU).

**American Bittern:** 7 individuals were reported from 12 Apr. at Montezuma (DK) to 26 May at Lost Island L. (RC).

**Whistling Swan:** Surprisingly there were as many reports from w. Iowa as e. Iowa: 4 on 21 Mar. at Willow S. (+BWi), 6 on 10 Apr. at Ames (HZ,LZ,PM), 14 and 30 on 10, 11 Apr. at Readlyn, Bremer Co., (FM,RMy), and 19 on 13 Apr. at Marathon, Buena Vista Co., (RC,TH,Doch).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Large numbers were present this year with up to 1500 at DeSoto N.W.R. on 27-29 Mar. (MB,DBI) and more than usual in central and e. Iowa: 150 at Cone M. on 29 Mar. (TK,m.ob.), many at Saylorville Res. on 20 Mar. (CL fide DN), up to 40 at Hendrickson M. from 21 Mar. to 19 Apr. (TK,ISU), 7 in Story Co. on 12 Apr. (HZ) and 1 at L. LaShane on 31 Mar. (GDe). Stragglers were at Riverton A. on 13 May (RS,TSh,TK), and Willow S. on 30 May (BWi).

**Ross' Goose:** Ross' Goose apparently occurs in Iowa on a regular basis but in such small numbers that it is luck to find one at close enough range to pick it out from among the Snow Geese with which it travels. Singles were found this spring on 19 Mar. on the near shore of Forney L. (+TK) and at Willow S. (+BWi).

**Canada Goose:** 1000 were at Bay's Branch on 18 Mar. (DN); 7 were late at Cone M. on 10 May (TSa,CB,TSh,TK).

**American Black Duck:** Reports from central and w. Iowa were 17 Mar. at Forney L. (TB,BP,SK), 26 Mar. at Hendrickson M. (ISU) and 7 Apr. at Willow S. (+BWi).

**Cinnamon Teal:** 1 was at Cone M. from 5 to 19 Apr. (TSta, m.ob.).

**Canvasback:** 600 at Hottes L. were unusual (DH). A pair possibly were nesting at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 14 May (DH). A pair was late at Willow S. on 19 May (BWi).

**Greater Scaup:** 5 were reported from Hamburg in Nov. 1979 (+IG). Spring reports were from Bay's Branch on 21 Mar. (+TK), 2 on 5 Apr. at L. Macbride (+TK) and 4 at Cone M. on 6 Apr. (+PP).

**Oldsquaw:** 1 was at George Wyth S.P. from 6-18 Apr. (+TSt. m.ob.). 2 were reported from Forney L. on 16 Mar. (GW fide TB).

**White-winged Scoter:** 6 were reported at Forney L. on 16 Mar. (GW fide TB).

**Hooded Merganser:** 3 at L. Manawa on 14 Mar. (TB,BP,SK), 2 at Forney L. on 13 May (RS,TK,TSh), 1 at Sweet M. on 18 May (FM).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 2 females at Forney L. on 9 May were late (RS).

**Common Merganser:** There was an impressive migration in w. Iowa with 600 from Forney L. to DeSoto N.W.R. on 20 Mar. (TK), and 150 at Cherokee on 24-25 Mar. (MB) as well as many in Sioux Co. (JV).

#### VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

**Turkey Vulture:** Three Mar. records: 17 Mar. at Forney L. (TB,BP,SK), 21 Mar. at Ledges S.P. (DN) and 29 Mar. at Mark Twain N.W.R. (TK, m. ob.).

**Osprey:** 15 reports from 6 Apr. to 7 May.

**Mississippi Kite:** 2 were seen at close range and described in detail at Wabonsie S.P. on 14 May (+TSJr,TSt). The same observers have reported this accidental species three years in a row.

**Bald Eagle:** There were many reports from w. and central Iowa as well as e. Iowa.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A pair in Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 11 May suggests possible nesting (MN,TK). A male flew into a window at Nora Springs and was photographed (DAB).

**Cooper's Hawk:** There were 14 reports (one documented, +WJ) with all but one being from central or e. Iowa. Joe Schaufenbuel reported a conservative estimate of 3 Cooper's to 25 Sharp-shinned. A nest was reported from Lucas Co. (fide JD).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 3 nests were found at Cherokee (DBi) and a nest with young was found at L. Anita on 4 May (TB,DB,SB).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 on 14 Mar. at Coralville Res. (KM); 1 on 15 Mar. at Backbone S.P. (FM,TSJr,TSt); 2 on 16 Mar. at George Wyth S.P. (TSJr,TSt), 1 on 4-17 May at Vinton (FM); nest in early May in Alamacée Co. (ISU); and 2 on 13 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (TSJr,TSt).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 600 at Sweet M. on 26 Apr. (FM).

**Swainson's Hawk:** 1 on 19 Apr. in s.w. Iowa (RS); pairs at Ledges S.P. (PB fide DN) and Hartman Nature Center at same nest as last year (RMy, m.ob.) on 22 Apr.; 2 migrating in Fremont Co. on 13 May (RS,TSh,TK); 1 at Volga L. on 26 May (FM); 2 at Waucoma, Fayette Co., in late May (JSb); and a pair returning to the same nest for the third year in Osceola Co. (DBi).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Two spring records; 19 Mar. near Albia (TK), 22 Mar. in Story Co. (R & TM).

**Golden Eagle:** Three reports: 6 Apr. at Riverton A. (+TSJr,TSt), 12 Apr. at Green I. (GC,JH) and Black Hawk P. (RMy).

**Prairie Falcon:** One near DeSoto NWR on 15 Mar. had the features of this species except the black axillaries were not seen (+RC,WJ,TH).

**Merlin:** Reported from Harper's Ferry and Backbone S.P. on 15 Mar. (RMy, FM, RH, TSJr, TSt).

**Common Bobwhite:** A number of observers noted increased numbers as evidence of recovery from the severe winters of the past few years. There were several reports from northern parts of the state, the most notable being a return of this species to Sioux Co. in n.w. Iowa (JV).

**Gray Partridge:** 6 at Lizard L. on 9 May (RC) was the only report.

**Wild Turkey:** Turkeys are common in the Loess Hills of s.w. Iowa (RS). Other reports suggesting spread were from Coralville Res. (CB), Ledges (HZ), Linn Co. (TG), and Sweet M. (FM).

#### CRANES THROUGH TERNS

**Sandhill Crane:** One wintered in Fayette Co. from mid Nov. through Jan. -- see separate note and photograph (+JS). One was seen on 16 Apr. near Ledges S.P.

(+DN).

**King Rail:** There were two undocumented reports. I found no reports of this species in the last 10 years so careful documentation and confirmation by several observers will be required to convince me of its existence in Iowa.

**Virginia Rail:** There were few reports: Sweet M. on 11 May (RMy), Willow S. on 14 May (TSJr,TSt), Forney L. on 15 May (TSJr,TSt) and Sunken Cove on 18 May (RC). I saw them at the usual locations but did not report them.

**Yellow Rail:** Two sightings were well documented: 28 Apr. near Swan L., Johnson Co. (+TSta, +MGI) and 11, 18 May at Sweet M. (+RMy, +FM).

**Common Gallinule:** 1 was at Swan L. Johnson Co., on 26-27 Apr. (TK,TSh,CB,RH) and 1 at Dudgeon L. on 17 May (RMy,FM,TSJr,TSt).

**American Avocet:** 12 at Forney L. on 2 May (RS) and 2 at Willow S. on 7 May (BW) and 14 May (TSJr,TSt).

**Semipalmented Plover:** 1 at Cone M. on 13 Apr. is a recent record early date (TK, CB); 180 were a record number at Coralville Res. on 13 May (TG).

**Piping Plover:** 1 at Coralville Res. in early Apr. (MN) and 1 at Willow S. on 21 May (B Wi).

**Lesser Golden Plover:** The migration was outstanding with 5 at a near record early date of 22 Mar. at Cone M. (TK,TSh) and progressing to numerous reports of 50 to 1200 across the state on the weekend of 10-11 May; 400 were still present in Dickinson Co. 18 May (MB).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 6 to 14 were reported from 11 May to 19 May from Coralville Res. (TK,TSta), Ames (HZ,LZ,PM), Forney L. (TSJr,TS()), and Dickinson Co. (FM).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1-20 birds from eleven localities from 4 May to 18 May.

**Marbled Godwit:** 1 on 17 Apr. in Pottawattamie Co. (+TB,BP,SK) and 1 on 10-11 May at Yager S. (PP,MPL,AH,HZ,LZ) had no white on the tail or wings. Another was reported from Sweet M. on 10 May (not flushed, RMy).

**Upland Sandpiper:** There were reports from 12 locations across the state.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 5 were early at Cone M. on 22 Mar. (TK,TSh) and 30 at Coralville Res. on 20 Apr. is a record number (TK).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Near record early dates were 14 Mar. at Forney L. (TB,BP, SK) and Cone M. (TK, TSh); 2 were late at Coralville Res. on 25 May (TK).

**Willet:** 1 to 14 were reported from widely scattered areas from 19 Apr. (Sweet M. RMy, FM) to 13 May (Boone Co., ISU)

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 8 were at Forney L. on 13 May (TK, TSh, RS) and 3 at Coralville Res. on 18 May (TK, TSh, CB). A most unusual record of a Turnstone in Feb. at the Keokuk Dam Power House was substantiated by a photograph (HMP).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Few were reported and numbers were down compared to 1979.

**Northern Phalarope:** 1 on 26 Apr. at Riverton A. is a record early date (RMy, RS fide RMy); 1-2 on 12, 13 May at Coralville Res. (TSJr, TSt, TG), 1 on 17 May at Dubuque (GC), and 7 on 24 May at Willow S. (+BW).

**American Woodcock:** The earliest date was 26 Mar. in Iowa City (TSh). There were several reports from central and w. Iowa: Ames (ISU), Poweshiek Co. (DK), Larabee (MB, DBi), L. Manawa (TB), and Riverton A. (RS, BW).

**Common Snipe:** 50 were at Cone M. on 13 Apr. (TK, CB); late birds were at Muskrat S. and Coralville Res. on 10 May (TK, TSh, CB, TSt).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Several observers reported details on Dowitcher identification and most identified species. Short-bills were reported from 6 May at Princeton A. (TK) to 18 May at Coralville Res. (TK). On 10 May 100 were at Sweet M. (TS Jr, TSt).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Fewer details were provided on long-bills. 28 were at Cone M. on 7 May (TK, TSta) and 25 were at Riverton on 13 May (TK, TSh, RS).

**Sanderling:** 13 at Riverton and Council Bluffs on 13 May (RS, TSh, TK); 1 at Amana L on 12, 13 May (CB, TSta); 2-3 at Ames on 30-31 May (HZ, LZ).

**Western Sandpiper:** The only reports were singles at Coralville Res. on 8 May (TSh) and Sweet M. on 18 May (TSJr).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 on 8 May at Coralville Res. (TSh), 3 on May near Yager S. (PP, MLP, AH), 75 on 13 May at Riverton A. (RS, TSh, TK), 2 on 20 May at Coralville Res. (TSta), and 6 on 31 May at Ames (MR).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Reports were from 8, 12, 13 May from s.w. Iowa (TB, BP, SK, RS, TSh, TK), Dickinson Co. on 11 May (PP, MCP, AH), Sweet M. on 18 May (FM) and Ames on 30, 31 May (HZ, LZ). The peak number was 28 in Ames.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 11 on 22 Mar. were early at Cone M. (TK, TSh); 1000 at Coralville Res. on 22 Apr. were peak numbers (TK).

**Dunlin:** Reports were from 27 Apr. at Nashua (FM, TSJr, TSt) to 25 May at Coralville Res. (TK). There were 50 at Coralville Res. on 20 May (TSta) and 30 at Nashua on 11 May (TSJr, TSt).

**Franklin's Gull:** 3 at L. Manawa on 20 Mar. were early (TK). Small numbers (1-30) were reported from w. Iowa but only 1 was reported from e. Iowa in Scott Co. on 12 Apr. (PP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** There were 6 reports from w. Iowa with a late date of 13 May at Forney L. (RS, TSh, TK) and one report from e. Iowa at L. Macbride on 20 Apr. (TK).

**Forster's Tern:** Migrants passed by Willow S. from 2 to 19 May (BWi).

**Common Tern:** More than usual were reported with observers noting field marks observed: 1 on 20 Apr. at Cedar Rapids (TG), 8 on 3 May at Muscatine (TSh, TK, CB, TSta), 1 on 15 May at Coralville Res. (TK), 2 on 18 May at Sweet M. (RMy, FM, RH, TSJr, TSt), 3 and 10 at Willow S. on 19, 24 May (+BWi).

**Caspian Tern:** 3 on 7 May at L. LaShane (GDe); 2 on 8 May at Council Bluffs (TB, BP, SK); 12 on 18 May at Sweet M. (RMy, FM); 1 on 24 May at Willow S. (BWi).

#### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

**Barn Owl:** 1 was found near Silcock's in Mills Co. on 2 May but did not return to same nest tree (RS).

**Long-eared Owl:** 6 on 15 Mar. at Big Creek S.P. (HZ, LZ); 3 on 6 Apr. at George Wyth S.P. (RMy, FM); 1 injured bird on 21 Apr. in Osceola Co. (RS fide DH).

**Short-eared Owl:** Singles on 15 Mar. at Cherokee (MB), on 19 Mar. at Ames (PM) and Dickinson Co. (DH), and on 29 Mar. at Sweet M. (RMy, FM).

**Saw-whet Owl:** 2 at Ledges S.P. on 8, 9 Mar. (HZ, LZ).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** 2 were heard in n.w. Mills Co. on 10 May where they have been found previously (TB).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** There were 9 reports from 14 to 25 May, all singles except 5 at Lamoni (GDe) and 12 at Montezuma (DK).

**Common Flicker:** A Red-shafted Flicker was at Willow S. on 17 Apr. (BWi).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Unusual locations were in Des Moines on 16 Apr. (J & MM) and at Willow S., Mills Co., in the spring of 1979 (EG fide BWi).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Late birds were at Decorah (?breeding) on 17 May (JSb) and Iowa City on 20 May (MN).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

**Eastern Kingbird:** Numbers were lowest in years at Cherokee (DBi).

**Western Kingbird:** The only report away from the Missouri R. flats was at Willow S. on 21 May (BWi). It was considered unusual at this location which is about one county away from the Missouri.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Good numbers were reported in n.w. and n.e. areas (JV,JSb). There are early indications of recovery of this species. The early date was 28 Mar. (TG).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** There were eight records from Vinton on 18 May (FM), St. Lucas on 22 May (JSb), and Ames on 26 May (JR) in addition to the usual netted birds at Davenport on 18 May (PP). Joe Schaufenbuel got them to respond to a tape recording. Perhaps this technique could lead to a better understanding of the migration of this species in Iowa.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Reported from typical e. Iowa habitats -- Wildcat Den S.P. (m.ob.), Amana Woods (CB), Palisades-Kepler S.P. (TK, TSh, CB), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (TSJr,TSt).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Reported from Willow S. by 21 May (BWi) and on 24 May at Pocahontas (RC) and Cone M. (TK).

**Alder Flycatcher:** On 26 May 6 were heard at Willow S. (BWi) and 3 at Volga L. (FM).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Four reports: 15 May Ames (ISU), 20 May Iowa City (TK), 21 May Mills Co. (BWi) and 27 May Lamoni (GDe).

**Tree Swallow:** The earliest date was 28 Mar. at Muskrat S. (TG), one day earlier than the earliest date in Brown's Annotated Checklist.

**Bank Swallow:** The first arrived at Hamburg on 12 Apr. (IG), a week earlier than Brown's record date.

**Rough-winged Swallow:** This species was also reported from Hamburg on 12 Apr. (IG).

**Purple Martin:** First arrivals were 2 Apr. at Elkhart (DMos), 5 Apr. at Sioux Center (JV) and 6 Apr. at Ames (ISU).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Reported scarce at Ames (only one seen, PM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Only two reports: 1 at Ames on 2 Mar. (PM) and several at Sioux Center in early Mar. (JV).

**House Wren:** One arrived at a record early date at Hamburg on 7 Apr. (IG).

**Winter Wren:** 1-2 were reported from Cone M., Waterloo and Vinton (TK, CB, FM, TSJr, TSt).

**Carolina Wren:** None reported.

**Marsh Wren:** Reports of 1 to 8 birds from widely scattered locations across the entire state from 30 Apr. to 24 May.

**Sedge Wren:** Reports of 1 to 6 birds from widely scattered locations across the entire state from 3 May to 26 May.

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reports of single birds were from Greene and Calhoun Cos. on 10, 12 Apr. (GJ), Cedar Rapids on 20 Apr. (TG), near Wildcat Den S. P. on 7 May (PP, MLP, CS) and Larabee on 31 May (MB).

**Brown Thrasher:** One was at Ames on 6 Apr. (ISU).

**Hermit Thrush:** Early and late dates reported were 5 Apr. in Sioux Co. (JV) and 5 May at Ames (ISU).

**Veery:** Singing birds at Ledges S.P. on 31 May may be residents (HZ).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Most who commented reported a few and some observers regularly monitor nesting sites. The field reports do not seem to be an adequate means of monitoring the status of this species. Any ideas?

**Mountain Bluebird:** One was found near Mason City on 16 Mar. by Thelma Fromm and an identifiable photograph provided by Curt Nelson.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A pair was constructing a nest at Vinton on 17 May (FM).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** From 2 to 10 birds were reported from eight locations from 2 to 17 Apr. (m. ob.) with 2 probable winter birds at Waterloo on 9 Mar. (FM).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Three early reports were 22 Mar. at Ames (ISU), 28 Mar. at Iowa City (RH) and 4 Apr. at Ledges S.P. (DN). The latest date was 16 May at Iowa City (TK).

**Water Pipit:** Few reported: 1 at Cone M. on 26 Apr. (TK, TSh), 3 at Nashua on 27 Apr. (FM) and 1 at Ames on 4 May (HZ, LZ, PM).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** One was closely observed at Cedar Falls on 9 Mar. (FM, RH).

**Cedar Waxwing:** A flock of 65 were still present at Ledges S.P. on 31 May (HZ, LZ).

**Northern Shrike:** One was seen on 8 Mar. in Clayton Co. (FM).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** This is another species that is inadequately evaluated by field reports -- 14 widely scattered sightings from 26 Mar. to 31 May including nests near Bay's Branch on 5 Apr. and Muskrat S. on 10 May. My perception is that this species is a regular resident in s.w. Iowa and scattered elsewhere in the state.

#### VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

**White-eyed Vireo:** Reported from four locations: Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City (m.ob.), Ledges S.P. (banded, +DN), Montezuma (DK), and Dudgeon L at Vinton (RMy, FM).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** There were 8 sightings by 5 observers from 11 to 18 May (TK, JR, HZ, LZ, FM).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 4 were at Dudgeon L. on 17 May (RMy, FM, RH, TSJr, TSD) and 10 at Guttenberg on 24 May (TSJr).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 13 May (TSJr, TSt); one was probably present (heard) at Effigy Mounds on 29 May (CB).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 2 at Spirit L on 10 May were unusual for n.w. Iowa (DBi).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Brewster's hybrid was seen at Ledges S.P. on 19 May (+DN, BE). Territorial birds were at the Ledges on 26 May (ISU).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Near record early dates were 21 Apr. in Mills Co. (BWi) and 23 Apr. in Ames and Iowa City (ISU, TK). One was late in Davenport on 19 May (banded, PP).

**Magnolia Warbler:** 20 were observed in the Iowa City area on 18 May (TSh, TK, CB).

**Cape May Warbler:** Eight reports were mostly from e. Iowa but ranged west to Ames (ISU) and n.w. to Dickinson Co. (RC) with dates from 10 May to the dead bird at Ames on 20 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Both reports were from 18 May at Wildcat Den S. P. (MN), and St. Lucas (JSb).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** A late migrant was banded at Davenport on 19 May (PP).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** One at Sioux Center on 30 Apr. was a rare find for n.w. Iowa (JV).

**Cerulean Warbler:** One on 2 May in the Amana Woods (CB) precedes the earliest date given by Brown.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** One or two were seen and heard at Wildcat Den S.P. from 3 to 22 May (+RT, + TK, m.ob.), and Ledges S.P. on 27 Apr. (HZ, LZ, PM); 5 were at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12-13 May (TSJr, TSt); and 4 were at White Pine Hollow on 12 May (+TSJr).

**Pine Warbler:** None reported.

**Palm Warbler:** 2 were late at Davenport on 19 May (PP).

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1 was relatively early at Ames on 19 Apr. (PM).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Sightings were from typical locations: Waubonsie S.P. (RMy, m.ob.), n.e. Mills Co. (BWi), Ledges S.P. (HZ, m.ob.), Lacey-

**Keosauqua S.P.** (TSJr, TSt), Wildcat Den S.P. (m.ob.), and Amana Woods (CB). The earliest date was 19 Apr. at the Ledges (ISU).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Reports were from Sunken Cove on 18 May (+RC, WJ, JC) and Ames on 24 May (PM).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reports were from Pleasantville (RT, GB) and Davenport (PP).

**Hooded Warbler:** 1 was seen at Sunken Cove on 18 May (+RC) which is unusually far north and west for this species.

**Wilson's Warbler:** John Van Dyk considers this species regular in Sioux Co.

#### MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

**Orchard Oriole:** This species is common in s.w. Iowa. More easterly reports were from Ames (PM, AT), near Cone M. (TSh, TSta, CB, TK) and near Wildcat Den S.P. (PP).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 30 at Cone M. 5 Apr. (TSta, m.ob.); 8 at Hamburg on 13 Apr. (IG).

**Western Tanager:** A male was easily identified at Forney L. on 26 Apr. (+RMy, +RS) (see longer note).

**Summer Tanager:** Only report was from the usual location at Waubonsie S.P.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Early dates for this late arriving species were 9 May in Mills Co. (RS, BJR, BWi) and 13 May at Forney L. (RS, TSh, TK).

**Dickcissel:** Our n.w. Iowa colleagues disagree: "not very common, numbers seem alarmingly low" (DBi) and "are present in good (and normal) numbers. Need not be blue-listed in northwest Iowa" (JV). Two other observers suggested a decrease (FM, TK). Breeding bird surveys should give us a much better assessment of this possibly declining species. Unfortunately this information is not available for our immediate evaluation.

**Purple Finch:** There was a marked absence of Purple Finches. The only report was a single bird at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 27 Apr. and 2 May (TK). They were gone from Lamoni where they are regularly banded in Mar. (GDe).

**Pine Siskin:** Like the other n. finches, Pine Siskins were rare; 5 were at Davenport until 16 Apr. (PP) and 2 were in Iowa City on 23 Mar. (TSta).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** An overwintering western race remained in Iowa City until 5 Apr. (TK), the same date the first migrant was reported in Ames (PM). A nest with 4 eggs was found at Volga L. on 26 May (FM).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** The scattered reports do not provide an adequate evaluation of this Blue Listed species.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Present at the usual Hayden Prairie location on 24, 31 May (FM, TSJr, TSt) but one near Red Oak in s.w. Iowa on 26 Apr. was unusual (FMy).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Reports from Waterloo on 19 Apr. (TSJr), Lizard L. on 21 Apr. (RC), Cone M. on 26 Apr. (TSh, TK), Willow S. and Hendrickson M. on 15 May (BWi, JR).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Very common in Sioux and Lyon Cos. (JV); otherwise scattered reports are insufficient to evaluate this species.

**Lark Sparrow:** This species is regular in s.w. Iowa but apparently now rare in other localities; 1 on 4 May at Coralville Res. (TK), 4-6 on 4 May at Vinton (FM, m.ob.), 2 on 24 May in w. Sioux Co. (JV), 1 on 31 May in Cherokee Co. (MB).

**Northern Junco:** One was late at Cone M. on 3 May (TK, TSh, CB, TSta).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** There were 5 reports from w. Iowa, 2 from central Iowa and 1 from e. Iowa reflecting the usual distribution of this species. Extreme dates were from 25 Apr. to 16 May (both at Willow S., BWi)

**Harris' Sparrow:** Late dates were 13 May at Riverton A. (RS, TSh, TK) and 15 May

at Iowa City (TK).

**Lapland Longspur:** 25 were in Hamilton Co. on 6 Mar. (HZ, LZ), no others reported.

+ documented

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Carl Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion Brewer, Cherokee; Dorothy A. Brunner, Nora Springs; George Crossley, Dubuque; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; Rich DeCoster, Iowa City; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; James Dinsmore, Ames; Tim Gates, Cedar Rapids; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; J. Donald Gillaspay, Lamoni; Marlyn Glasson, Iowa City; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Rick Hollis, Iowa City; Wallace E. Jardine; Pocahontas; Glenn E. Jones, Rockwell City; Eric G. Joranson; Council Bluffs; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; Kurt Maas, Ames; Randy Maas, Ames; Tomma Maas, Ames; Paul Martsching, Ames; Francis I. Moore, Waterloo; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Jack & Mary Musgrove, Des Moines; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Curt Nelson, Mason City; David A. Newhouse, Boone; Michael Newlon, Iowa City; Peter Petersen, Davenport; John Robinson, Ames; Michael Roughton, Ames; Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas; Thomas Shires, Iowa City; Ross Silcock, Malvern; Thomas Staudt, Iowa City; Tom Stone Jr., Waterloo; Alex Thiermann, Ames; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames; Linda Zaletel, Ames.

#### OTHER OBSERVERS

Paul Bartelt (DN); Don Bray (TB); Steve Bray (TB); Judy Carlson (RC); Bruce Ehresman (DN); Don Grave (PP); Doc Harms (RC); Russell Hays (TSJr, FM); Allan Hahn (PP); Joan Higley (GC); Thaine Hopkins (RC); ISU Students (JD); Sandra Kovanda (TB); Craig Lauritsen (DN); Babs Padelford (TB); Mary Lou Petersen (PP); Carl Priebe (DN); Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Prince (GB); B. J. Rose (RS, BWi); Clark Scott (PP); Ron Spengler (DH); Tom Stone (TSJr); Walter Zuurdeeg (PP).

#### COMMENTS

Forty-four reports were received before the cutoff date of June 7 comprising 146 pages including 36 documentations. Most areas of the state were well covered, but there was practically no coverage of extreme e.e. and s. central Iowa including Red Rock and Rathbun Reservoirs. About one-third of the reports were brief including only a few species; the others were moderate to extensive. Many of the reporters were new with some providing extensive new coverage. David Newhouse provided a new avenue for input from Conservation Commission personnel. Two established Iowa birders were heard from for the first time in several years. Keep up the good work.

Most contributors were cognizant of the problems in substantiating rare and difficult-to-identify species. I am gradually developing a philosophy toward handling these problems. As I see it, my job is to include in the field reports observations that are significant and beyond reasonable doubt. Let me first discuss what constitutes "beyond reasonable doubt." There is no reason to question species which are common, in season, easy to identify and seen by experienced, conservative observers known to me. Not surprisingly, some of the most significant sightings fall at the opposite end of the spectrum. Evidence which must be considered, more or less in the order of reliability, is: (1) Specimen or diagnostic photograph. In this report photographs of a Ruddy Turnstone in February and of a Mountain Bluebird were the convincing evidence. (2) A netted or injured bird examined by a competent observer. (3) Independent description of

a bird by more than one observer including key field marks. If the birders see the same bird without knowing that the other has seen it and make notes immediately they have not biased each other nor been biased by a book. More frequently, two or more observers look at a bird together, a situation in which group psychology is likely to come into play. The observers should avoid expressing conclusions but remind each other of field marks to look for and consult books only if the bird is still in view. Immediately upon completion of observation and before discussing the identification, each person should write down a description of the bird. The separate documentations, in spite of their crudeness, are likely to be more convincing than a composite documentation written hours or days later. (4) Verification of a bird found by one individual that can be found by other birders he/she has notified. (5) A bird seen by one individual in which the key field marks are discussed, whether present or absent, and documented objectively. (6) Observations by birders known to be experienced, competent and conservative. (7) A less well documented bird that is observed in other locations during the time period. These guidelines are helpful for accidental, casual and rare, regular species which are difficult to identify. Handling of more common, difficult-to-identify species such as Dowitchers and Common Terns is a problem we need to address in the future.

How should I handle the reporting of birds that are not "beyond reasonable doubt"? Here are my current feelings. Single sightings of accidental and difficult-to-identify casual species will not be included in the Field Reports without convincing documentation. I will request documentation from regular contributors who do not consistently fail to provide it. The same procedure will be applied to some of the rare regular species. I hope to develop a list of regular species that need to be documented. Ray Cummins and Barb Wilson have sent their suggestions. I hope you will too. Full documentation is not always needed; for example, mention of key field marks for Marbled Godwits, Dowitchers, Northern Shrike and Bohemian Waxwing would convince me of the quality of the observation.

I will make only a few comments on what is significant to report. I judge that most contributors are including almost all of the unusual sightings. Some doubtful ones should be left out. Major contributors represent a spectrum when it comes to reporting more common species ranging from none to all. I would appreciate your leaving out common species present in normal numbers at normal times. I hope that we can develop some means to handle moderately common species such as Common Loon, Great Egret and Stilt Sandpiper and selected Blue List species such as Eastern Bluebird and Loggerhead Shrike.

One final thought: Encourage those birding with you to join the IOU.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Western Tanager in Southwest Iowa** – On April 26, 1980 I was birding with Ross Silcock in Fremont County Iowa. At 11:00 a.m. we were at Forney's Lake checking a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers when I noticed a quite different bird. By the time I could get the words "Western Tanager" out of my mouth, Ross was at my side and confirmed the identification. Ross has seen the bird in its normal range. The Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) was a male in full breeding plumage. The bird was clearly visible in excellent light. The bright yellow body, black wings and tail, white wing bars, and the brilliant orange-red head were easily seen. We watched the bird for several minutes before it moved off out of sight. BOB MYERS, 1236 Sylvia Ave., Waterloo, Iowa 50701

**Sandhill Crane Wintering in Fayette County** -- In mid-November 1979, a Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) appeared on the Daryl McBride farm three and one-half miles west of Fayette, Fayette County. The bird remained at that location for nearly two months in a cattle pasture feeding on waste grain. It became a source of local curiosity but otherwise went unpublicized until Fayette County Conservation Officer Roger Kean observed the bird in early January 1980. Kean reported the unusual occurrence to photojournalist Millie Churbuck of the Upper Iowa University newspaper, *The Collegian*. Mrs. Churbuck then went to the McBride farm and photographed the bird on January 8. She then published one of her photographs in the March issue of *The Collegian* several weeks after the crane was photographed and last seen.



Wintering Sandhill Crane in Iowa  
Photo by Millie Churbuck

In reading the story in early March, immediately attempted to obtain more information from people who had seen the bird, but could add little to the story. I visited the McBride farm Jan. 5, however the crane could not be located. From what I gather from the observers and Mrs. Churbuck's pictures the crane was wary, therefore apparently wild, uninjured, and had plumage suggestive of an immature bird. Iowa literature contains no mention of this species in winter, so this is an unusual first for Iowa. JOSEPH SCHAFENBUEL, St. Lucas.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**The Complete Birds of the World** -- Michael Walters -- David and Charles, Inc., North Pomfret, Vt. -- 340 p., 1980 -- \$35.50.

This book lists all the bird species of the world. All questionable species are included with details. No total number of the species is given. Data through 1977 was included. For each species the Latin name, common name, authority, range, habitat, an idea of abundance, and some nesting data are included. Some recent U. S. name changes are not used. Two columns of type are on each page making this a difficult book to utilize for a life list. ed.

**The Imperative Call - A Naturalists' Quest in Temperate and Tropical America** -- Alexander Skutch -- University Presses of Florida, Gainesville -- 331 p., many black and white photographs -- 1980 -- \$20.00.

The author of a series of books detailing his observations of Costa Rican birds now describes his life prior to moving to that country. He grew up in Maryland and Maine, conducted research in Jamaica and Panama, searched for botanical specimens along the Ohio River and finally moved to Guatemala. This book combines with the earlier **Naturalist in Costa Rica** to give us a complete autobiography of Skutch. Much of his philosophy and respect for life comes through the text. ed.

**The Island Waterfowl** -- Milton Weller -- Iowa State University Press, Ames -- 122 p., many black and white photographs -- 1980 -- \$10.95.

Waterfowl are well adapted for life on islands, but remote islands create problems for even these hardy birds. Dr. Weller, a longtime IOU member, has studied waterfowl throughout the world. His observations of their ecology, breeding, biology and behavior help us to understand problems of habitat use, island biography, food exploration, avian social systems and conservations. ed.

**The Hawaiian Goose, An Experiment in Conservation** -- Janet Kear and A. J. Berger -- Buteo Books, P. O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. D. -- 154 p., 1 color plate, 47 black and white photos, -- many line drawings -- 1980 (Pub. date, Sept. 1) -- \$30.00.

The Nene or Hawaiian Goose is a fine example of how man can reduce a population from about 25,000 to less than 50 and then build it to over 2,000. This achievement has been widely praised, but it remains to be seen if they can maintain a breeding population in the wild. The causes of the decline and hazards to be faced by the reintroduced population are discussed at length, but the heart of the book is the propagation programs. The result is a volume with a message for all conservationists. ed.

**Some Adaptations of Marsh-nesting Blackbirds** -- Gordon H. Orians -- Princeton University Press, Princeton, N. J. -- 295 p., many illus -- 1980 -- \$18.00 -- paperbound -- \$7.95.

Orians has studied blackbirds for years and in this book he presents the results of his research of how blackbirds utilize their marsh environments during the breeding season. He concludes with an overview of the structure of bird communities in marshes of the world, and the relation of these patterns to overall source availability in these habitats. ed.

**Birds of Mountain and Moorland** -- John Gooders, Ed. -- Orbis Publishing Ltd., 20-22 Bedfordbury, London, UK -- 272 p., hundreds of color illustrations and maps -- 1978 -- £7.50.

The second of five volumes which cover all the birds of Europe, this beautiful book presents the diurnal birds of prey, upland game species, cranes, bustards, rails and hemipods. In addition to complete species accounts with range maps it

includes some fine flight drawings and chapters on special adaptations and problems of these birds. All species are represented by fine color drawings and some great photographs depict most of the birds covered. The book stresses the importance of conservation in addition to presenting a full systematic survey of these species. ed.

**Falconry in Arabia** -- Mark Allen -- Orbis Publishing Ltd., 20-22 Bedfordbury, London, UK -- 143 p., many color and black and white illustrations, 2 maps -- 1980 -- L.15.

Westerners are seldom accepted as hunting companions of the nomads of the Arabian deserts. Mark Allen was one of the few who has had the opportunity to hunt with these Bedouin and compare their methods with those of European falconers. The book is beautifully produced and presents the technique and mood of this ancient sport. It captures the Arab's love of falconry and conveys the part it plays in their lives. ed.

**Birds of Southwest Washington** -- John W. Weber and Earl J. Larrison -- University of Idaho Press, Moscow -- 66 p., 2 maps -- 1977 -- paperbound, \$2.50.

This annotated checklist covers eleven counties from Spokane to Walla Walla and Pullman to Waterville. It also includes an ecological description of the four counties in the very southeast corner of this area. It would be very useful for anyone birding this area and is reasonably priced. ed.

**The World of Birds** -- Gianfranco Bologna -- Abbeville Press, N.Y. -- 256 p., many color illus. -- 1978 -- \$12.50 -- paperbound \$6.95.

Parts of a new series of pocket encyclopedias, the book offers a comprehensive overview of the structure, habitat, ecology, behavior and classifications of birds. It combines reference work with the readability of a browsing book. Reasonably priced for today's market it is ideal for high school libraries. ed.

#### A.O.U. MEETING

The American Ornithologists' Union will hold its annual meeting at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, August 11-15, 1980. An interesting program of scientific papers, lectures, exhibits, and tours is planned. The public is invited. For information about the local arrangements write Dr. Gustav A. Swanson, Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80523. For information about the program of papers, write Dr. Kendall Corbin, Secretary, American Ornithologists' Union, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455.

#### BIRD CENSUS SYMPOSIUM (CORRECTION)

The Symposium on "Estimating Populations of Terrestrial Birds" will be held October 26-31, 1980, at Asilomar, near Monterey, California. The invited papers, given by authors from the United States, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia, will cover a wide range of subjects. The principal topics will be the problems, methods, and analyses of bird censusing. There will be a variety of field trips during and after the Symposium to explore methods of censusing and habitats of coastal and interior California. The Asilomar conference grounds are located in a State Park on Monterey Bay and provides an attractive and stimulating setting. For further information write the Symposium organizers: Dr. C. John Ralph and Dr. J. Michael Scott, Bird Census Symposium, P. O. Box 43, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii 96718.